

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00413 111742Z

46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 EB-07

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5271

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CH

SUBJECT: CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT CROP

1. USLO OFFICER WHO TRAVELED FROM PEKING TO SHANGHAI BETWEEN FEBRUARY 22 AND MARCH 1 OBSERVED FOLLOWING WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS AT PLACES AND ON DATES INDICATED.

2. ON FEBRUARY 22 OBSERVED ONLY SCATTERED SNOW BETWEEN PEKING AND TIENTSIN LEFT FROM FEBRUARY 21 SNOWFALL. SOUTH OF TIENTSIN SNOW COVER INCREASED GRADUALLY UNTIL FIELDS ALMOST COVERED AT POCHEN.

3. SOUTH OF POCHEN FIELDS COMPLETELY COVERED WITH SNOW WHICH EVIDENTLY FELL ON FEBRUARY 21. FIELDS APPEARED WET AROUND TECHOW IN SHANTUNG.

4. SOUTH OF TECHOW THERE WAS STILL SNOW WHICH PROBABLY FELL FEBRUARY 13.

5. ON FEBRUARY 25 FROM TSINAN TO SOOCHOW SOME SNOW
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PAGE 02 PEKING 00413 111742Z

STILL EVIDENT AND GROUND APPEARED MOIST. WHEAT WAS

GREEN AND FROM TWO TO THREE INCHES TALL.

6. RAIN WAS REPORTED IN NANKING ON FEBRUARY 21 AND IT RAINED THROUGHOUT NIGHT OF FEBRUARY 27.

7. FROM NANKING TO SOOCHOW ON FEBRUARY 28 LAND WAS WET JMF WHEAT WAS GREEN AND ABOUT FOUR INCHES HIGH. AT WUHSI RAIN BEGAN AT 1600 AND CONTINUED THROUGHOUT NIGHT. RAIN EXTENDED TO SOOCHOW AREA.

8. ON MARCH 4 AND 5 SHARP CONTRAST NOTED BETWEEN LUSH GROWTH OF WHEAT IN SHANGHAI-NANKING AREA AND DRY RETARDED DEVELOPMENT IN AREA OF TIENTSIN-PEKING.

9. A SECOND USLO OFFICER, WHO TRAVELED PEKING TO CHANGSHA BETWEEN MARCH 4 AND 9, REPORTED AREA NORTH OF YELLOW RIVER VERY DRY. SOME IRRIGATION HAD STARTED BUT WATER SHORTAGE WAS EVIDENT;

10. BETWEEN THE YELLOW AND YANGTZE RIVERS THERE HAD BEEN ADEQUATE RAINFALL. LEVEL OF RIVERS APPEARED NORMAL FOR TIME OF YEAR.

11. RAINS FELL IN WUHAN AND CHANGSHA ON MARCH 5 THROUGH 7. AREA HAD HAD PLENTY OF RAIN, BUT NOT TOO MUCH, ACCORDING TO SHAOSHAN-HUNAN DISTRICT OFFICIAL. WHEAT WAS LUSH AND ABOUT FOUR TO FIVE INCHES TALL IN CENTRAL HONAN AND 10-12 INCHES TALL IN CENTRAL HUNAN.

12. AMERICANS VISITING PEKING FROM SZECHWAN REPORTED THERE HAS BEEN PLENTY OF RAIN IN LUCHOW.

13. AMERICANS VISITING PEKING FROM MANCHURIA DURING FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY REPORTED CONDITIONS VERY DRY AT WOLITUN (NORTHWEST OF HARBIN) AND AT PANSHAN IN LIAONING. THE GROUND IS STILL FROZEN IN BOTH AREAS.

14. WHEAT AT COMMUNE NEAR PEKING VISITED ON FEBRUARY 23 APPEARED DARK, DRY AND DORMANT. WHEAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PEKING 00413 111742Z

NEAR THE AIRPORT AND MING TOMBS HAD SAME APPEARANCE ON FEBRUARY 29.

15. ON MARCH 6, WHEAT NEAR PEKING WHICH HAD BEEN IRRIGATED WAS GREEN AND ABOUT AN INCH TALL BUT STILL SHOWED SOME BROWN. FARTHER FROM PEKING TOWARD GREAT WALL WHEAT WAS ABOUT AN INCH TALL, BUT MUCH GREENER.

16. COMMENT: SOUTHWARD FROM PEKING WHEAT DEVELOPMENT EVIDENTLY ABOUT NORMAL. TO THE NORTH AND NORTH-EAST OF PEKING NO BENEFICIAL AMOUNTS OF SNOW OR RAIN HAVE BEEN REPORTED. WHEAT IN DRY AREAS APPEARS RESPONDING WELL TO IRRIGATION, WHERE AVAILABLE.
THAYER

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